

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int. Application No
PCT/NO 03/00401

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 B6385/14

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

8. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B63B E01D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

PAJ, EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	JP 57 026076 A (HITACHI ZOSEN CORP) 12 February 1982 (1982-02-12) figures 9,10 abstract	1-10, 29-35
Y	FR 2 782 695 A (JORCIN PIERRE YVES) 3 March 2000 (2000-03-03) abstract	1-10, 18-21, 24-35
Y	US 6 009 821 A (AL-RAMMAH FOUAD ABDUL KARIM ET AL) 4 January 2000 (2000-01-04) figure 1 abstract	18-21, 24,25,28

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

^o Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

10 March 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

22 MAART 2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

CARL FRÖDERBERG / ELY

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int. Application No
PCT/NO 03/00401

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 4 706 319 A (SIVACHENKO EUGENE W ET AL) 17 November 1987 (1987-11-17) figure 6 abstract	26,27
Y	--- US 5 713 296 A (GERVASI PAUL R ET AL) 3 February 1998 (1998-02-03) figures 7,8 abstract	30-33
A	--- US 4 715 307 A (THOMPSON LARRY L) 29 December 1987 (1987-12-29) abstract -----	6

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/NO 03/00401

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 36
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 36

Present claim 36 relate to an extremely large number of possible products. In fact, the claim contains so many options, variables, possible permutations that a lack of clarity and conciseness within the meaning of Article 6 PCT arises to such an extent as to render a meaningful search of the claim impossible.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/NO 03/00401

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
JP 57026076	A	12-02-1982	JP 1333240 C JP 60056677 B	28-08-1986 11-12-1985
FR 2782695	A	03-03-2000	FR 2782695 A1	03-03-2000
US 6009821	A	04-01-2000	NONE	
US 4706319	A	17-11-1987	AU 591326 B2 AU 7732287 A	30-11-1989 23-02-1989
US 5713296	A	03-02-1998	NONE	
US 4715307	A	29-12-1987	AU 8251887 A GB 2213778 A	15-06-1989 23-08-1989